

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT SHUM TGEN PL

SUBJ: DAS ARMITAGE'S CALL ON VICE MINISTER SPASOWSKI

1. SUMMARY: IN A TWO-HOUR SESSION JULY 25 DEVOTED TO A REVIEW OF OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE EXPLAINED RECENT ADMINISTRATION POLICY INITIATIVES TO VICE MINISTER ROMUALD SPASOWSKI OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) AND REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION TO RELATIONS WITH POLAND. SPASOWSKI EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE OVERALL STATE OF U.S.-GOP RELATIONS, BUT OFFERED NO ASSURANCES THAT THE POLES ARE READY TO TAKE STEPS TO RESOLVE THE LONGSTANDING ISSUE OF DIVIDED FAMILIES. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. POLICY. ARMITAGE OPENED THE DISCUSSIONS WITH A SUMMARY OF RECENT POLICY INITIATIVES OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. HE NOTED THAT THE PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF THE PROSPECTS FOR ANOTHER SALT AGREEMENT AND FURTHER STEPS TOWARD DETENTE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR, OFTEN SEEN IN THE WESTERN PRESS, WAS NOT SHARED BY WASHINGTON POLICYMAKERS. COMPETITIVE AND ADVERSARY ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS WOULD CONTINUE TO EXIST, BUT THE
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ADMINISTRATION HOPES THAT COOPERATION IN AREAS OF OVERLAPPING INTERESTS WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO BUILD A STRONGER BASE FOR FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST.

3. ARMITAGE SAID THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS FOR ARMS LIMITATIONS CALLED FOR MUCH DEEPER CUTS THAN HAD BEEN PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY. THEY REFLECTED OUR CONVICTION THAT VIGOROUS STEPS

MUST BE TAKEN TO FORESTALL AN ARMS RACE STEMMING FROM TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION STRONGLY HOPED ITS PROPOSALS WOULD RECEIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND EXAMINATION BY THE SOVIET SIDE.

4. ARMITAGE REVIEWED THE HUMAN-RIGHTS ASPECTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY AND THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS ISSUE. ARMITAGE RECALLED THE PRESIDENT HAD EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE U.S. AND THE USSR COULD FIND WAYS TO WORK TOGETHER ON MAJOR MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION IS EAGER TO EXPAND OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GOP AND IS DETERMINED TO PRESS AHEAD IN THOSE AREAS WHERE WE CAN GO STILL FURTHER.

5. POLISH POLICY. SPASOWSKI RECALLED HIS GOVERNMENT'S ABIDING INTEREST IN DETENTE, WHICH HE NOTED DIRECTLY AFFECTED THE GOP'S OWN FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNAL SITUATION. HE SAID THERE WAS "COME CONCERN" AMONG POLAND'S LEADERS OVER THE STATE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. SPASOWSKI SAID POLAND'S LEADERSHIP HAD NEVER QUESTIONED THE PRESIDENT'S GOOD WILL AND NOBODY COULD DENY THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HIS GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE SEPARATE FROM THE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY AND REGRETTED VERY MUCH THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY HAD LED TO CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES IN RELATIONS WITH THE USSR.

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6. SPASOWSKI SAID SOME HARM IN OUR RELATIONS HAD RESULTED FROM A MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT REMARKS CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE POLISH PRESS. THEY WERE NOT TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS A PERSONAL CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT. THE GOP "REGRETTED VERY MUCH" THE WAY IN WHICH THE ARTICLE BY MACIEJ SZCZEPANSKI HAD BEEN UNDERSTOOD. THIS ARTICLE MERELY DEMONSTRATED A DIFFERING POINT OF VIEW ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. SPASOWSKI SAID IT WAS NEVER HIS GOVERNMENT'S IDEA TO DIRECT WORDS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT AND ASKED ARMITAGE TO TAKE THIS REMARK NOT AS HIS OWN PERSONAL FORMULATION, BUT AS THAT OF THE POLISH LEADERSHIP.

7. SPASOWSKI SAID THE GOP IS VERY INTERESTED IN SEEING PROGRESS MADE ON SALT, EVEN THOUGH POLAND IS NOT ITSELF A PARTY TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. IF SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IS MADE, THE GOP BELIEVES THIS WILL BE REFLECTED IN A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE. SPASOWSKI SAID HE HAD BEEN HEARTENED BY HIS TALKS IN WASHINGTON IN APRIL AND NOTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S READINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES IN PROPORTION TO ITS ABILITIES. HE CITED THE EXPANSION AND DEEPENING OF U.S.- POLISH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED WHEN THERE IS GOOD WILL.

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8. DIVIDED FAMILIES. ARMITAGE RECALLED THAT THE GOP'S PERFORMANCE ON THE ISSUE OF DIVIDED FAMILIES HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTING TO US AND CONTRASTED IT WITH THE STEADY IMPROVEMENT REGISTERED IN THE OTHER AREAS OF OUR RELATIONS. HE NOTED THAT OUR REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS HAD NOT EVOKED A RESPONSIVE POLISH POSITION AND POINTED OUT THAT THIS ISSUE HAD THUS FAR BEEN CONFINED MOSTLY TO OFFICIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS. HE WARNED SPASOWSKI, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOP'S EMIGRATION POLICY WOULD PROBABLY COME UNDER GREATER PUBLIC SCRUTINY AS THE AUTUMN BELGRADE CONFERENCE APPROACHES. SPASOWSKI ADMITTED THAT "NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE" HAD CHANGED IN THE GOP'S APPROACH TO THE DIVIDED-FAMILIES ISSUE IN RECENT MONTHS, BUT CLAIMED HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY DONE A LOT IN CASES WHICH COULD TRULY BE CLASSED AS "HUMANITARIAN".

9. SPASOWSKI RECALLED THERE HAD BEEN AN ACCUMULATION OF "DIFFICULT" CASES AND SAID WE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT RESULTS DID NOT RELATE TO THE GOP'S WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER SUCH CASES. THE PRESIDENT'S CSCE REPORT "WAS NOT A GOOD ACCOUNT OF OUR EFFORTS", SINCE IT DEALT WITH ONLY A PART OF THE LARGER ISSUE OF HUMAN CONTRACTS. MORE POLES WERE VISITING THE U.S. THAN EVER BEFORE; THIS TOO SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. AMERICANS COME TO POLAND WITH
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ALMOST NO FORMALITIES AND FEW U.S. CITIZENS ARE REFUSED VISAS. THE VICE MINISTER SAID THE GOP IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCONSIDERATE TREATMENT OF POLISH CITIZENS BY IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THE MFA AND CONSULAR OFFICIALS HAD REFRAINED FROM RAISING THESE CASES IN THE PAST, BUT ARE NOW UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO BRING THEM TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION.

10. BILATERAL VISITS AND CONTACTS. SPASOWSKI SAID THE GOP CONSIDERS THE UPCOMING VISITS OF THE MINISTERS OF MINING (LEJCZAK) AND HEALTH (SLIWINSKI) TO BE OF IMPORTANCE BECAUSE OF THE EXTENSIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS IN THE FIELDS OF MINING AND HEALTH. SPASOWSKI HOPED THE VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (JERZY OLSZEWSKI) WOULD ALSO TAKE PLACE AT AN EARLY DATE. HE WAS PLEASED SENATOR BIDEN WAS COMING TO POLAND AND SAID AN INVITATION FROM WARSAW CITY PRESIDENT MAJEWSKI TO MAYOR WASHINGTON HAD ALREADY BEEN EXTENDED. MAJEWSKI WOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR DURING THE FIRST HALF OF SEPTEMBER OR IN OCTOBER. ARMITAGE RAISED THE VISIT OF RABBI SCHINDLER, NOTING HE PLANNED TO COME IN AUGUST. HE HAD ASKED MINISTER KAKOL ABOUT THE VISIT AND HOPED THE MINISTRY WOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE SCHINDLER IF HE CAME IN AUGUST. SPASOWSKI SAID THERE WOULD BE FEW OFFICIALS IN WARSAW DURING THAT MONTH. ARMITAGE SAID THAT IF AUGUST WAS NOT POSSIBLE, HE HOPED THE POLISH SIDE WOULD PROPOSE CONCRETE DATES FOR SCHINDLER'S PARTY, SO THEY COULD BE RECEIVED BY APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. SPASOWSKI PROMISED HE WOULD CONTACT KAKOL TO SET UP THE VISIT, BUT DOUBTED IF IT COULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE SEPTEMBER.

11. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. SPASOWSKI SAID OUR RELATIONS IN THIS FIELD WERE VERY ADVANCED. BUT IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO BEGIN MAKING PROVISIONS FOR THE DAY WHEN ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FUNDING WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND, IF THE PROGRAM WERE TO CONTINUE ON THE SAME SCALE. BOTH SIDES HAD BENEFITED FROM THE AVAILABILITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF ZLOTYS; SPASOWSKI FORESAW DIFFICULTIES WHEN U.S. AND POLISH AGENCIES WOULD HAVE TO COMMIT HARD-CURRENCY RESOURCES TO SUSTAIN RESEARCH UNDER THE JOINT BOARD. SPASOWSKI NOTED THE GOP'S RECORD IN MEETING ITS SCHEDULED CONTRIBUTIONS AND SAID HE THOUGHT A STATEMENT CONTAINED IN THE SECOND CSCE REPORT CAST DOUBT ON POLAND'S DETERMINATION TO CONTRIBUTE ITS SHARE TO THE JOINT FUND AND WAS THEREFORE NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION. (COMMENT: SPASOWSKI APPARENTLY MADE REFERENCE TO THE PASSAGE CONTAINED IN THE SECOND SEMIANNUAL CSCE REPORT ON PAGE 30 WHICH BEGINS WITH "...THE LAST U.S.-OWNED ZLOTYS IN THE JOINT U.S.-POLISH ACCOUNT WERE OBLIGATED AT THE END OF 1976 FOR COOPERATIVE PROJECTS. WHEN MATCHED BY POLAND, THE EQUIVALENT OF DOLLARS 60 MILLION WILL HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH PROJECTS". WE DO NOT FIND THE REPORT'S LANGUAGE TO BE

OBJECTIONABLE. END COMMENT.)

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